

Child Care Provider COVID-19 Resources

Public Health Guidance for Open Providers (reviewed weekly for most recent updates)

- [Guidance for Child Care Programs \(CDC Guidance\)](#)
- Recommended [Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs \(PDF\)](#)
- [Quarantine Guidance for People who are Contacts of a COVID-19 Case](#)

Additional resources may be found on the [Schools and Child Care: COVID-19 - Minnesota Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\) webpage](#) including [COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Youth Programs and Day and Overnight Camps \(state.mn.us\)](#).

If you have a positive case in your program, follow the guidance in [Best Practices for Handling a Confirmed Case of COVID-19](#) and complete the [COVID-19 Case Report Form for K-12 Schools, Childcares, and Youth Programming \(Camps, Sports, Extracurricular Activities\)](#) selecting "I would like someone to follow up if you have questions, concerns or need assistance with contact tracing." The Children's Cabinet will continue to support providers in getting their questions answered. Health related questions can be sent to health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us. Testing questions should be directed to COVIDTesting.MDE@state.mn.us. Other questions related to child care and COVID-19 may be directed to childrenscabinet.mmb@state.mn.us.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS Below are financial supports for child care programs.

One-Time Supplemental Stabilization

The Governor allocated \$20 million for the child care industry to help programs experiencing increased costs and staffing challenges related to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases and to remain open for families. Based on ongoing communication with and feedback from child care providers, the Administration prioritized these funds for flexible use to assist providers who are experiencing the impacts of lost revenue and increased costs associated with temporary classroom quarantines and pandemic-related worker vacancies and staffing limitations, among other needs. Minnesota Department of Human Services plans for providers to be able to apply for and receive these funds through the January Child Care Stabilization Base Grant application and payment distribution. While Minnesota is in a stronger position than many states due to the Governor's continued support for child care throughout the pandemic, the sector was vulnerable prior to the pandemic and faces unique and continued urgent needs as COVID spreads especially amongst our unvaccinated populations.

Child Care Stabilization Grants

The American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law in March 2021, providing Minnesota with additional funds designed to help stabilize the child care industry as the state continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. These federal funds have specific rules and requirements per federal and Minnesota state statute that must be followed. DHS is administering these funds through two

programs: Base Grants (September 2021 through June 2023) and Financial Hardship Grants. More information about these funds and how to apply for them can be found on the DHS Child Care Stabilization Grants website.

Please regularly update your capacity, enrollment, and openings to serve children by using the Update Tool as required when receiving this funding. Regularly updating your capacity using this tool is a *requirement* of the Stabilization Grant funding.

Child Care workers and their families can refer to this [Parent and Family resource guide](#) ([Hmong](#), [Somali](#) and [Spanish](#)) aimed at helping families find supports related to COVID-19, including economic, child care, mental health, and other supports.

TESTING

COVID-19 testing information and locations can be found on mn.gov/covid19. Minnesota has opened testing sites across the state that are available at this site. Appointments are recommended to decrease wait times but walk-ins welcome. We encourage Minnesotans to regularly utilize these testing sites regardless of whether you have symptoms. Minnesota also offers free, at-home No-Cost [COVID-19 Saliva Testing](#) For All Minnesotans through Vault Health.

Additional testing information may be found on the [COVID-19 Testing Program/State of Minnesota Covid-childcare \(mn.gov\) webpage](#).

Clarification on Testing and Asymptomatic Individuals: As the state promotes “no barrier” testing events across the state, it is important to note that Minnesotans who are not symptomatic, not living in a household with a symptomatic individual, and not a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case, do not need to stay home or be quarantined while awaiting testing results.

COVID-19 VACCINE

All Minnesotans 5 years of age and older are eligible to receive the vaccine.

How to get your vaccine:

- Sign up for the [Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector](#). The Vaccine Connector will inform you about vaccine opportunities in your area.
- Use the [Vaccine Locator Map](#) to find vaccine providers near you.
- Contact your primary health care provider or a local pharmacy.
- Vaccine Connector users may also be randomly selected to make an appointment at one of the state's [COVID-19 Community Vaccination Program sites](#). If you are selected, you will be notified by text, email, or phone call by one of the state vaccination partners running those sites: Vault Health, Primary Bio or Specialysts (Solv).
- Your employer may also reach out with information about vaccination opportunities.
- Visit this [page](#) to learn more about COVID-19 Vaccine including recommendations for those who are [fully vaccinated](#).